



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

# Randolph County

# 2024 Annual Report

509 W. Reed Street  
Moberly, MO 65270  
660-269-9656

**SERVE  
MISSOURI.**

**DELIVER  
MIZZOU.**



## Extension

*University of Missouri*

an equal opportunity/ADA institution



Office of Extension  
and Engagement  
*University of Missouri*

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Columbia, MO 65211  
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December 2024

Dear county commissioners, elected leaders and friends of MU Extension and Engagement,

As we reflect on the past year, I want to express my deep gratitude for your support of MU Extension and for your partnership in enhancing the lives of Missourians.

Your support for MU Extension fuels Missouri's agriculture, strengthens families, prepares our youth and promotes the health, well-being and vitality of our communities. Over the past year, our programs have focused on addressing key needs throughout the state:

- **Expanding access to 4-H:** To make 4-H more accessible, we've introduced more in-school and after-school clubs, reducing barriers and creating opportunities for young Missourians to develop essential skills and leadership abilities.
- **Supporting agriculture and land stewardship:** We're addressing critical issues such as succession planning for family farms, rural mental health, agricultural business management and land stewardship. These initiatives are helping Missouri's farmers plan for the future and preserve the health of our land for future generations.
- **Advancing health initiatives:** Our team of community health field specialists, covering every region of the state, works directly with local leaders to assess health needs and bring UM System resources and expertise to these communities, supporting healthier lives and stronger communities.
- **Promoting economic development:** MU Extension is helping to create economic opportunities by working with individuals, supporting businesses in their growth and collaborating with communities to enhance local vibrancy. Through these efforts, we help bring new jobs, skills and possibilities to Missourians across the state.
- **Providing essential training:** Our continuing education programs prepare Missouri's firefighters and health care workers to meet the demands of their roles with the latest skills and knowledge, ensuring they are well-prepared to serve our communities.

As you read through this annual report, I hope you feel as proud as I do of the accomplishments we've achieved together. The dedication and professionalism of MU Extension's faculty and staff are inspiring, and I am grateful to work alongside them—and each of you—as we make Missouri a stronger, healthier and more vibrant place. Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we are serving Missouri by delivering the University *for* Missouri.

Warm regards,

Chad Higgins, PhD  
Vice Chancellor, MU Extension and Engagement  
Chief Engagement Officer, UM System

# Who we are

## Faculty and staff

Linda Sharp  
Office Manager

Taylor Harris  
Youth Program Associate

Brittney Ames  
Nutrition Program Associate

Jeremiah Terrell  
Human Development Specialist

Mary Soba  
Agricultural Business Specialist

Valerie Tate  
Field Specialist in Agronomy

Heather Conrow  
Livestock Specialist

Jim Meyer  
Extension Engagement Specialist

Mike Krauch  
Regional Director

## Council members

Roy Morales-Kuhn, Chairman

Merl Riley, Vice-chairman

Melissa Boots, Secretary Amy

Owen, Treasurer Betty Mayo

Pat Tregnago

John Smith

John Tracy

Shannon Hance



## County Commissioners

Sid Conklin  
Presiding Commissioner

John Tracy  
Eastern District Associate Commissioner

John Hobbs  
Western District Associate Commissioner

# Budget and more

## Appropriations budget

### Income

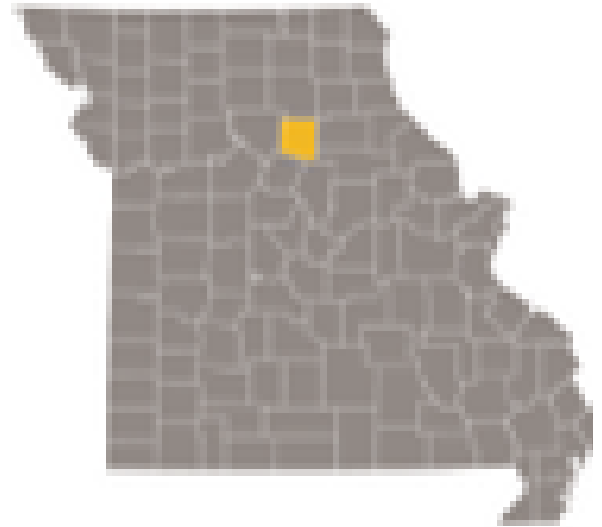
County Appropriations	20,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>20,000</b>

### Expenses

Salaries/Benefits	15,468
Travel	2,767
Communications	849
Office Supplies/Service	4,191
Utilities	2,570
Insurance	695
Rent	8,400
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>34,940</b>

## Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to *Randolph* County Extension with a gift to be used immediately or as an endowment contribution for long term efforts. Monies put into the endowment are left forever to earn interest with the county office benefiting each year. You can also direct your donation to a specific program such as 4-H or Master Gardeners.



## MU Extension is a unique funding partnership.

Extension funding is a three-way partnership of federal, state and county government. Federal and state money, through the University of Missouri system, pay professional staff salaries, training costs, computers and communication equipment. County funds support the local office, secretarial and youth assistant salaries, staff mileage and council expenses.

The *Randolph* County Extension Council, faculty and staff would like to express our appreciation to the *Randolph* County Commissioners for their continued support of extension programs.

# Randolph County



University of Missouri System

COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

## UM System Footprint in the county in 2023



### FY23 county students

**182 students**

- 148 Undergraduates
- 34 Graduate and professional students
- 142 Full-time students
- 40 Part-time students
- 52 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2023)



### County breakdown

**MU**

- 157 students
- 738 alumni
- 134 employees

**UMKC**

- 12 students
- 43 alumni
- 0 employees

**Missouri S&T**

- 7 students
- 22 alumni
- 0 employees

**UMSL**

- 6 students
- 14 alumni
- 1 employee



County population: 24,652



### County employees and retirees

**370 people employed by UM**

- 135 Campuses
- 231 MU Health Care
- 4 UM System

103 UM retirees and beneficiaries

UM salary and retirement income: \$20.3 million

UM state tax revenue: \$625,399

UM federal tax revenue: \$3.0 million



### County alumni

**Selected school alumni**

- 8 Medicine
- 56 Nursing
- 75 Health Professions
- 11 Dentistry
- 8 Pharmacy
- 10 Veterinary Medicine
- 140 Agriculture
- 66 Engineering
- 22 Law

**Alumni teaching K-12**

- 78 teachers
- 24.6% of all district teachers
- 2 principals and administrators
- 10.5% of all district principals and administrators



### Construction projects

- \$674,372 remitted to 1 county vendor, for 5 projects



### County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Randolph County



### County services provided

**Health care (FY23)**

- 7,173 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$4.8 million of uncompensated care
- 10 in-state patients seen at UMKC School of Dentistry with a statewide average of \$43.61 per patient in uncompensated care
- MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network recorded 1,644 visits to 1,012 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

**Extension (2023)**

- 4,176 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
- 30 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
- 3,918 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
- 75 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy

# Randolph County



# University of Missouri System

COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

## UM System Statewide Footprint

### Economic and Community Development Highlights

- In FY23, Business Development Specialists worked with small businesses and entrepreneurs statewide to create or retain 98,527 jobs.

**\$3.1**  
billion

For every dollar invested from 2019 to 2021, the MU Extension Business Development Program has returned \$133 in economic impact for its clients by increasing sales more than \$1.6 billion. For a total impact of \$3.1 billion, the program has generated more than 37,000 jobs and attracted nearly \$451 million in capital investments and \$1.5 billion in government contracts.

- Between FY18 and FY23, UM System brought Missouri more than \$1.58 billion in federal and private research funds, funded primarily from outside the state, but spent within the state.



In FY23, UM System was issued 33 patents and filed 61 new U.S. patent applications.

- In FY23, the UM System awarded 805 design and construction project contracts throughout Missouri, for a total investment of \$279.2 million in the state.



In FY23, to improve access to medical and health related services, MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network's Show-Me ECHO program provided 18,381 hrs of case-based instruction to 2,938 learners located in 112 of 114 Missouri counties and the city of St. Louis.

### Education and Training Provided



40,542 police, fire fighters, and medical professionals attending continuing education (2023)



Agriculture and natural resource programs served 369,077 farmers and related businesses (2023)

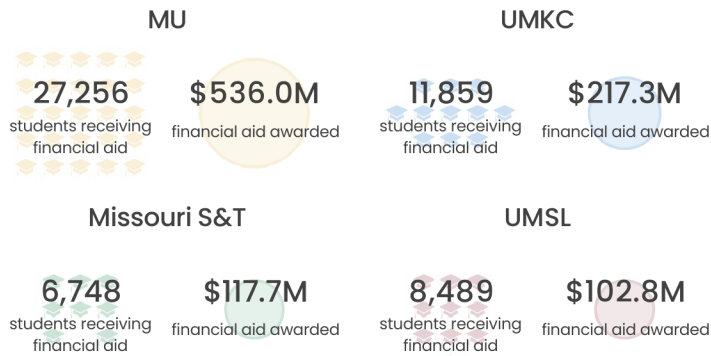


210,577 youth and stakeholder educational contacts in 4-H clubs, schools, camps and other programs (2023)

### Education Highlights

#### FY23 Financial Aid Awards

In FY23, 67.3% of the UM System's 80,702 students received financial aid totaling \$973.7 million



UM System's MOREnet (Missouri Research and Education Network) provides internet connectivity, access, support and training to 58 higher education institutions (230,000 students), 485 K-12 school districts (832,000 students) and 132 public libraries (serving nearly 3 million Missourians) in 2022.

- UM System awarded 50.5% of the 32,098 Bachelor's or higher degrees awarded by Missouri four-year public institutions in 2022-23.
- UM System awarded 36.6% of the 1,935 research doctorates and 26.9% of the 3,593 professional doctorates awarded by Missouri public and not-for-profit private institutions in 2022-23.
- In FY23, UM System's \$37.9 million in National Science Foundation (NSF) grants represented 88.3% of all NSF grants made to Missouri public colleges and universities.
- In 2023, over 10,900 Missourians accessed mobroadband.org, part of the UM System Broadband Initiative which helped the statewide build-out of high-speed internet infrastructure. MU Extension also supported residents in making individual challenges to the FCC that resulted in \$810,000 in additional funding for the state of Missouri.

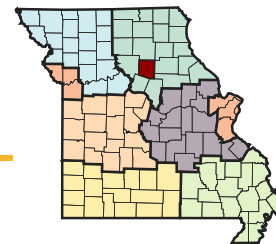
Supporting the University of Missouri is an investment in the future of Missouri.

The university advances Missouri citizens and communities through its mission of teaching, research, public service, and economic development across our four campuses and University of Missouri Extension.

Prepared in December 2023, based on the best available and most recent data. Data Sources include: Missouri Office of Administration • UM IR • MU Institute for Public Policy • Center for Applied Research and Engagement Systems (CARES) • MU • UMKC • Missouri S&T • UMSL • UM System • UM Health Care • MU Extension • US Census Bureau • US Dept. of Health and Human Services • National Science Foundation



# Missouri Grand Challenges: Local Solutions



## RANDOLPH COUNTY

### Knowing Missouri's Needs

MU Extension asked Missourians to share the greatest challenges they and their communities face.

We heard that feedback and made big changes in the way we work with council and local partners to improve lives. Locally, a network of county engagement and subject matter specialists now share MU's knowledge, research and engagement, targeting programs, information and assistance in:

- agriculture and environment
- youth and family
- business and community
- health and safety

**For each grand challenge, MU Extension and Engagement targets a specific gain by 2023:**



#### Economic opportunity

Increase MU Extension and Engagement's economic impact to the State of Missouri from \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion overall, and from \$88 billion to \$100 billion in agriculture, the top economic sector



#### Educational access and excellence

Increase participation in postsecondary education from 66% to 70%



#### Health and well-being

Improve Missouri's health ranking from 40th to 35th in the nation

### Knowing Local Challenges



#### CHALLENGE 1: Economic Opportunity: *Labor Market*

#### Average Earnings per Job

Average earnings per job can reflect the type of economy, skill of employees, and availability of jobs and workers in an area. Average earnings is calculated by dividing total full-time and part-time employment by total earnings. Earnings is the sum of three components of personal income--wages and salaries, supplements to wages and salaries, and proprietors' income. Full-time and part-time jobs are counted at equal weight. Both employment for wages and salaries and proprietors employment are included, but the employment of unpaid family workers and volunteers is not included. Average earnings per job is a measure of the wages paid at jobs in the county not the earnings of people who live in the county. The dollar figures shown are not adjusted for inflation.

#### 2022 Average Earnings (\$)

\$61,858

Randolph



Missouri

\$62,528 🤔

Data Source: US Department of Commerce, [US Bureau of Economic Analysis Regional Economic Accounts](#). 2007-2022.

#### Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate is a measure of an economy's active workforce and includes people who are employed and those seeking employment. According to the 2015 – 2019 American Community Survey, of the 19,786 persons of working age in the report area, 57.12% are included in the labor force. This rate falls short of the Missouri labor force participation rate of 63.12%.

#### Labor Force Participation Rate

57.12%

Randolph

Missouri

63.12%

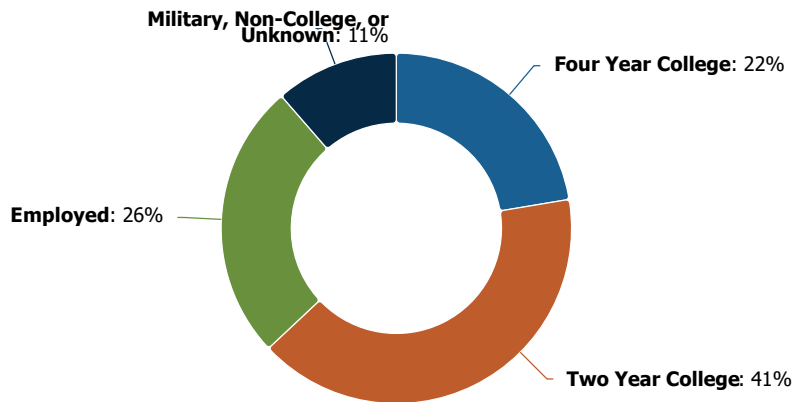
Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2019-23.



## CHALLENGE 2: Educational Access and Excellence: *College and Career Readiness*

### Post High School Report

The 12-month post-graduation activity of recent high school graduates can inform communities about postsecondary education, career readiness, and characteristics of the future workforce. In 2022, of 246 graduates surveyed in the report area, 55 went to a four-year college, 100 to a two-year college, 63 directly entered the job market. The remaining 28 are reported as in the military, not in college, or unknown.



Data Source: [Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education](#). 2022.



## CHALLENGE 3: Healthy Futures: *Mental Health*

### Deaths of Despair

Untreated mental health conditions, substance abuse, and stress have caused an epidemic of “deaths of despair” across the United States. Research shows that deaths due to suicide, alcohol-related disease, and drug overdose have caused the first decreases in U.S. life expectancy in the 21st century. Within the report area there were an estimated 70 deaths of despair, or 41.37 deaths per 100,000 population between 2011 and 2017. This rate is lower than the state rate of 52.01 per 100,000, and represents an increase of 19.19% since the 2001-2007 report period.

#### Mortality Rate, 2014-2020

41.37

Missouri

52.01 😞

Randolph



### Poor Mental Health Days

Self-reported mental health status is a widely used measure of health-related quality of life. In 2018, adults in the report area averaged of 5.6 mentally unhealthy days per month, which is higher than the state average of 5.3. This measure of mental health status has worsened since 2014, when adults in the report area averaged 4.4 mentally unhealthy days per month.

#### Average Poor Mental Health Days per Month, 2018

5.6

Missouri

5.3 😞

Randolph



Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#). Accessed via [County Health Rankings](#). 2021.

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [CDC - National Vital Statistics System](#). Accessed via [CDC WONDER](#). 2014-20.





## CHALLENGE 4: Agricultural Growth & Stewardship: *Soils Testing*

Recent public initiatives and USDA programs are putting a focus on producers to improve the health of their soil. The USDA-NRCS defines soil health as the continued capacity of the soil to function as a vital, living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals and humans. A variety of practices can improve soil health, including regular monitoring, sampling and testing protocols. The MU Soil and Plant Testing Laboratory provides testing and unbiased, research-based recommendations for economically viable and environmentally safe nutrient management practices across Missouri.

Report Area	Agriculture	Home and Garden	Community Areas	Research	Total
Randolph	27	21	7	0	55
Missouri	13,742	4,773	421	6,406	25,342

Data Source: [University of Missouri Extension Soil and Plant Testing Laboratory Annual Summary](#). 2022.



# MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**

through credible statewide programs

## Missouri 4-H for ages 8 – 18



**Community clubs** are organized by volunteer club leaders and teams of recognized volunteers. Members attend club meetings, elect officers, enroll in projects and plan learning and community service activities. Some clubs opt to be single-project clubs, where all members focus on the same project.



**4-H Natural Resources programs** employ hands-on activities in climate science, environmental sustainability, renewable energy, sportfishing and wildlife conservation. The **Shooting Sports program**, which teaches marksmanship, safe firearm use, hunting and archery principles, is a prime illustration of how 4-H programs promote holistic youth development and responsible citizenship. Supported by caring adult leaders, these programs offer opportunities to cultivate life skills, self-worth and conservation ethics.



**Missouri 4-H Agriculture and STEM programs** employ hands-on activities that foster problem-solving, creativity, critical thinking and exploration in engineering and technology. Agriculture programming emphasizes biology, environmental science, agri-science, veterinary science and engaging activities such as animal care and agronomy. STEM programs delve into computer science, robotics, aerospace, physics, chemistry and veterinary science.



### Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

# Randolph County

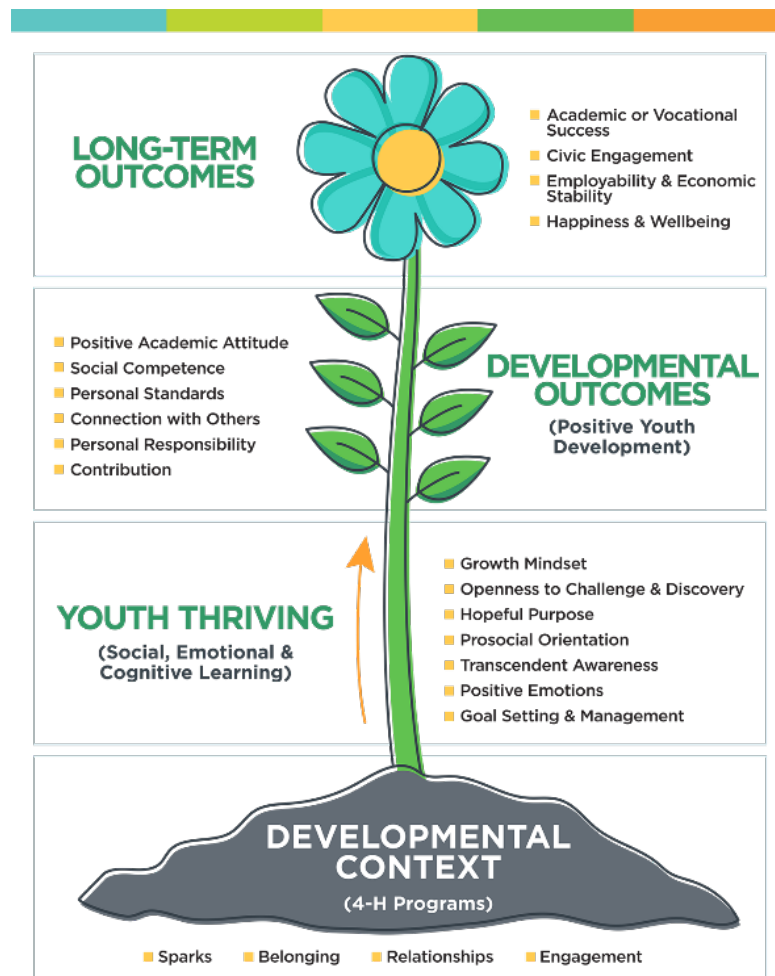
Missouri 4-H

## Local Impact

**A community of 133 youth building life skills, contributing to their community, and becoming college and career ready.**

**Three in every 100 Randolph County youth under the age of eighteen participated in a MU Extension 4-H Youth Development program in 2024.**

4-H Youth Development programs are guided by the 4-H Thriving Model, which is a framework to illustrate the connection between high quality 4-H programs and indicators of youth thriving with developmental outcomes which ultimately leads to the long-term outcomes of youth who experience academic or vocational success, are civically engaged, are employable and economically stable, and experience happiness and wellbeing.



# Randolph County

## Missouri 4-H

### Local Impact

#### 4-H Members

4-H programs are also grounded in the belief that youth learn best by doing. Through hands-on projects like science, health, agriculture, and civic engagement in a positive environment, youth receive guidance from adult mentors and are encouraged to take on proactive leadership roles. Youth have the opportunity to concentrate on one focus area, or they can try a variety of programs throughout their 4-H experience. Randolph County served youth through six community clubs offering long-term educational experiences in which members learn life skills such as decision-making, public speaking, and working with others.

- There were 133 youth reached through community clubs, SPIN clubs, in-school, and afterschool 4-H clubs in Randolph County during the 2023-2024 4-H Year.
- Over 113 4-H members were engaged in science related projects and experiences.
- Collectively youth participated in over 1300 hours of community club work in Randolph County.

4-H members have demonstrated learning through the following activities:

- Forty-eight youth participated in a variety of different events including Cake decorating, Public Speaking, Collections, Photography, Table Place Setting, and several others during the 2024 Randolph County 4-H Major Events Day.
- Eleven members and adults participated in the Northeast Region Energizer held in the spring of 2024 in Palmyra and sixteen members and adults attended the Northeast Region 4-H Round Up held in Macon in the fall.
- Four members participated in the State 4-H Teen Conference, which offered youth a fantastic opportunity to experience being developing leaders in 4-H. This event provides a safe and enjoyable campus experience where youth can enhance their skills and forge new friendships.
- Randolph County was represented at State 4-H Congress by four delegates. Delegates attended workshops covering diverse areas from science to leadership development that were complemented by experiences at the MU Student Center, social activities, and inspirational speakers. State Congress plays a vital role in helping these teens develop essential life skills, exploring potential career paths, nurturing leadership abilities, and fostering new friendships with peers from across the state.
- Nine youth from Randolph County participated in State Shoot events and one youth represented the state on the Missouri team at the National Shooting Sports Invitational.
- Two state level recognition forms were completed by members. These forms provide members with a vital step in the Experiential Learning Model. Members reflect on the things they have done and learned throughout the 4-H year and how they can apply what they have learned in the upcoming year.

4-H Clubs offer in-depth educational experiences in which members learn life skills such as decision making, public speaking, and working with others. Members learn by doing under this guidance of adult volunteers, who lead a wide variety of projects that support 4-H members in finding their SPARK. Club and project leaders also involve youth and teens in community service, leadership opportunities, and educational trips. 4-H project work and related educational experiences help youth explore interests in citizenship, communication, and leadership.

# Randolph County

## Missouri 4-H

### Local Impact

Randolph County members enrolled in a combined total of 562 projects in 2024. The top project areas included:

- Arts and Crafts
- Photography
- Shooting Sports Safety
- Shotgun
- Woodworking
- Swine
- Country Cured Bacon
- Poultry
- Archery
- Cake Decorating
- Country Cured Hams

Other pride points

- Anna Hess served as a State Shooting Sports Ambassador.
- Mackenzie Moyer participated on the state team placing 1<sup>st</sup> in Hunting and Outdoor Skills at the National Shoot.

Impacts of 4-H Programming

- 4-H members are twice as likely to go college compared to their non 4-H peers and they tend to pursue careers in STEM fields (Lerner & Lerner, 2011).
- 4-H also prepares youth for the workplace. Youth must be prepared to live and work in a world we cannot completely envision- competing for jobs that do not yet exist, using technologies that have yet to be identified. 4-H is the only youth development program with direct access to technological advances in agriculture, life sciences, and social sciences from the university system. This brings relevant science content and hands-on learning that helps youth thrive (Arnold, Bourdeau, & Nott, 2013).
- Youth who earn a bachelor's degree increase their annual earnings by \$2 million over their lifetime. (U.S. News and World report, 2011) If 50% of the Randolph County youth participating in 4-H events on a college campus receive a Bachelor's degree, 4-H would help young people acquire \$8,000,000 more in lifetime earnings.

#### 4-H Volunteers

- Randolph County 4-H members were supported by 39 enrolled, screened and oriented adult volunteers supporting the development of youth in 2024.
- Volunteers contributed 3,900 hours to the Randolph County 4-H program valued at \$130,611.

### Local Impact

Volunteers participate in development opportunities like project leader training and club leader summits, in addition to ongoing support from MU Extension youth faculty and staff gaining knowledge in how to offer a valuable learning experience for the youth they are working with while maintaining a safe, supportive environment. Volunteers create, support, and are a vital part of the 4-H community. Dedicated volunteers help to organize club meetings, fundraisers and events. They also provide learning opportunities for youth in their projects, teaching life skills and instilling qualities of character like respect and responsibility in members. Adult volunteers serve as mentors for our youth, helping them transition into caring, healthy adults who contribute back to their communities, which is priceless.

#### Resources

- Arnold, M., Bourdeau, V., & Nott, B. (2013). Measuring science inquiry skills in youth development programs: The Science Process Skills Inventory, *Journal of Youth Development*, 8(1).
- Arnold, M. E. (2018). From Context to Outcomes: A Thriving Model for 4-H Youth Development Programs. *Journal of Human Sciences and Extension*, 6(1), 11. <https://doi.org/10.54718/NBNL5438>
- Independent Sector. (2023). *Value of Volunteer Time Report | Independent Sector Resources*. Independent Sector. <https://independentsector.org/resource/value-of-volunteer-time/>
- Lerner, R.M., Lerner, J.V. (2011). The positive development of youth: Report of the findings from the first seven years of the *4-H Study of Positive Youth Development*. Retrieved from <http://www.4-h.org/about/youth-development-research/>.
- U.S. News and World Report (2011). How Higher Education Affects Lifetime Salary. Retrieved from <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/2011/08/05/how-higher-education-affects-lifetime-salary>



MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**  
 through credible statewide programs  
**Agriculture and Environment**



**The Missouri Master Gardener program**

enables people of all ages to get in-depth horticultural training and then apply what they've learned to improve their communities and educate others about gardening.



**In 2024, over 3,600 Missouri Extension Master Gardeners completed 98,200 VOLUNTEER HOURS – giving back over \$3 million to their communities.**



**The Missouri Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM)**, funded by USDA grants, has been an important extension program for more than 30 years. Mizzou IPM distributes articles, pest monitoring data and publications on how to improve the application of integrated pest management strategies and systems in crops. In addition, the new Soybean Growth Monitoring Report is released through IPM every two weeks during the growing season.

**The MU Soil Testing Program delivers research-based nutrient and lime recommendations to more than 32,500 customers annually.**



**Missouri Grazing Schools** teach management-intensive grazing by dividing large fields into smaller paddocks and systematically rotating livestock among them. Producers who attend the grazing schools learn how to reduce costs through improved livestock grazing and pasture management while getting insights into fencing, watering systems and grazing system design.

**The annual impact of management-intensive grazing is estimated to be \$125 MILLION per year in Missouri.**

**Legend**



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

# Randolph County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Impact

#### Magic City Master Gardeners

Rosalee Mason, secretary

Members of the Magic City Master Gardeners Club maintain a Maze Garden and a Ticket Station Garden in Rothwell Park near the Magic City Mini Train area. Currently, we are in the process of planning a redesign of these gardens because three large oak trees had to be removed this past summer and fall; thus, changing areas from being in shade to being in full sun.

We have an Annual Plant Sale in May each year at the James Youth Building in Rothwell Park. Besides selling plants, we answer questions. Funds support the gardens that we maintain and with other projects. We have a Grant Committee who has been blessing applicants with funding. Those assisted in 2024 were: Kiwanis - money for a tree and plaque in the new park; Emily Taylor (Girl Scout Gold Award project) - money to assist in building an outdoor classroom at Westran High School; and the YMCA - money for raised beds in an outdoor vegetable garden as a youth educational program.

We have an Info table at Little Dixie Public Library. We usually change the display monthly. It also includes a variety of free literature and a monthly garden tip sheet - suggestions of things that should be accomplished each month.

In September each year, we have a booth in front of the Extension Office during the Junk Junction event. We answer questions on horticulture and about the Master Garden program and Extension in general. We sell iris, day lilies and an assortment of other plants.

Some of the Master Gardeners in Randolph County (Peg Dann, Elizabeth Valtr and Rosalee Mason) are involved in Moberly Grow-a-Garden - an Extension Project. This project is run by a coalition of representatives from Extension, Randolph County Health Department, Little Dixie Library, Central Christian Church, Christos Center and several individuals. When it was started in the fall of 2022, this project received funding from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Missouri Department of Social Services, the University of Missouri Extension and many local businesses.

The gardens are located on land owned by Central Christian Church that long ago had been Whitaker Hospital and its gardens. The purpose of the project is to provide plots, education and assistance to help people raise fresh vegetables. 4x8 foot plots are rented for \$5 each for the growing season. In 2024, 29 plots were available and approximately 25 were rented. The Master Gardeners lend their assistance with growing and supplying plants; teaching, demonstrating and answering questions; harvesting vegetables to donate, etc. To help the vegetables grow better and to provide a beautiful area for resting, we also have a pollinator garden. The pollinator garden was in a temporary location in 2023 and was moved in June 2024 to its intended permanent location after all the work was completed to get it ready - thanks to many hours of work by Peg Dann, Matt Everts and his wife - Stephanie. The new location is a repurposed old koi pond. Unrented plots were planted with vegetables, harvested and then donated to the Community Kitchen or to Christos. With the help of Brittany Ames, we applied and won a grant through MU in late summer 2024. We received items worth many thousands of dollars - a larger wooden shed, shelving, garden tools, a small cultivator type tiller, tomato cages, panels, etc.

Our club does many things throughout the year to add to our knowledge of horticulture. We tour public and private gardens; visit gardening centers, orchards, and commercial horticultural enterprises and have educational speakers present programs, and more. We assist the public with our knowledge and our encouragement in the areas of horticulture.



# Randolph County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Impact

#### Soil Testing

Soil testing is a valuable tool for farmers. It is a process used to estimate the ability of the soil to support plant growth. Samples submitted to the University of Missouri Soil Testing Lab are analyzed for pH and nutrients including phosphorus, potassium, calcium and magnesium. Soil can also be tested for micronutrients including sulfur, zinc, manganese, iron and copper.

The objectives of the MU Soil Testing Lab are: to help farmers make effective use of fertilizer to increase their financial returns; benefit society with improved environment and water quality through efficient use of fertilizer on farms, lawns and gardens; and to ensure public and private labs are providing reliable and quality soil test results to the citizens of Missouri.

University of Missouri Soil Testing Lab ensures Missouri farmers are efficiently using the plant nutrients which are applied to agricultural fields by providing unbiased, research-based fertilizer and limestone recommendations based on soil fertility analysis. This is a cost-effective way to determine if adequate fertilizer is being applied in order to obtain the yield goals set by the farmer. It also ensures the farmer is not applying excess fertilizer, which is not only costly, but can be damaging to the environment. In 2024, the MU Soil Testing Lab analyzed 56 soil samples from Randolph County.

#### Private Pesticide Applicator Training

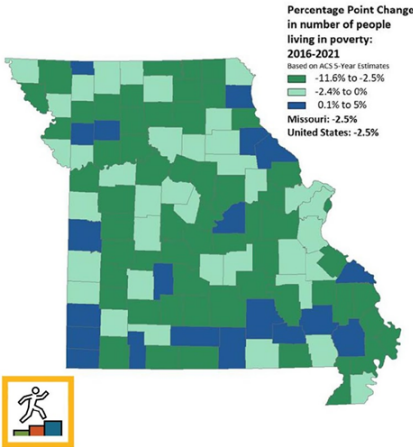
The private pesticide applicator license issued by the Missouri Department of Agriculture is required for producers wanting to purchase and apply restricted use pesticides. Restricted-use pesticides are classified as such because without additional training they pose a risk to people, animals, or the environment. Agricultural producers needing to obtain or renew certification of this license must take this pesticide safety training every five years. They must be 18 years of age and directly involved in the production of agricultural commodities to obtain this license.

During the training, participants learn about safe handling of pesticides, proper mixing, calibration techniques, environmental ramifications of improper mixing or careless application, chemical breakdown of pesticides in the environment, what records are needed, pesticide formulations, personal protective wear and how to clean it, pesticide storage, common Missouri pests, and integrated pest management (IPM) techniques.

During 2024, 7 agricultural producers in Randolph County were trained and licensed to purchase and apply restricted use pesticides.



# MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible statewide programs **Business and Community**



The **Missouri Economy Indicators (MEI)** series explores business, industry and workforce topics that affect Missouri's economy. The data is shared through newsletters and on social media. MU Extension faculty and staff receive talking points and collateral to share with local stakeholders.

**In 2022, MEI published 15 issues, and MEI online resources were accessed MORE THAN 5,000 TIMES. Two out of five MEI newsletter recipients reported using the information to help guide policy or decision-making in their work.**



The **Missouri Small Business Development Centers** (SBDC) provide professional training and customized one-on-one counseling to small businesses across the state. Working with the Missouri SBDC helps business owners make confident decisions.

**FY2020-2022, Missouri SBDC ASSISTED 878 STARTUPS and helped Missouri small businesses earn more than \$440 MILLION.**



The annual **Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities** conference is designed for stakeholders, economic developers, businesses, local government, educators and nonprofits interested in increasing their communities' potential for entrepreneurship. In 2023, the conference offered breakout sessions in Benton County's shops and businesses, providing firsthand insight into the world of entrepreneurial communities.

**The 2023 conference drew 104 ATTENDEES, generating an estimated initial economic impact of around \$33,000 FOR BENTON COUNTY.**

## Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

# Randolph County

## Business and Community

### Local Impact

#### **Agriculture Lender Seminar**

*Mary Sobba*

Seventy-two lenders from 20 Missouri counties and Illinois attended an ag lender seminar in Mexico. Lenders learned about crop and livestock outlook, agriculture policy, rental rates & land values, MU budgets, wind and solar leasing, input costs and enterprise budgets, Missouri farm business management summary and Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority (MASBDA) programs.

By attending University of Missouri's Agricultural Lenders' seminars, lenders gain knowledge to help their clients make better decisions based on objective education and resources. More information and better decisions benefit their portfolio of producers, landowners, and agribusinesses through enhanced understanding of enterprise budgets, market expectations, and other decision influencing factors affecting families' and businesses' financial health. Lenders in attendance manage farm loans totaling \$155,250,000.



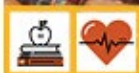


MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**  
 through credible statewide programs  
**Health and Human Sciences**



Divorcing or separating parents encounter distinct challenges when living apart. **Focus on Kids** guides parents in fostering effective co-parenting strategies to support their children through this process.

**“Understanding that divorce doesn’t ruin children, but parents can significantly influence positive outcomes through good communication, was invaluable.”**



**Building Strong Families**

Studies show that people with strong family bonds tend to have lower stress levels. Building Strong Families helps families deal with disagreements, manage stress and show their love for one another.



**Home Food Preservation**

*Preserve the season’s bounty – deliciously and safely.*

Learn safe techniques for pressure canning, boiling water bath canning, steam canning, dehydration and freezing.

Understand the importance of using safe preservation and storage methods to avoid cross-contamination and foodborne illnesses.

**“This course made me more self-sufficient and improved my family’s access to quality food.”**

**Legend**



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

# Randolph County

## Health and Human Sciences

### Local Impact

#### SNAP-Ed Public Value Statement 2024

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed) brought \$11,145,237 in federal funds to Missouri. The funds support engagement with 74,864 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients and eligible citizens of Missouri who learned about being active and healthy eating on a budget. This year we had 1,164,143 indirect educational contacts through newsletters, health fairs, food pantries, and the Show Me Nutrition helpline.

4686 direct and indirect contacts were made in Randolph County.

Participants in SNAP-Ed learn the importance of making healthier meals and snack choices, eating breakfast more often, are more willing to try new foods, increase their physical activity, and make healthier food choices. Those who practice healthy eating and are physically active are more likely to contribute to a healthy labor force and enjoy a high quality of life throughout the lifespan.

This vital programming effort also reduces healthcare costs over the participant's lifetime, saving taxpayer money in reduced public healthcare benefits and insurance premiums.

#### **Brittney Ames, Nutrition Program Associate serving Randolph County**



#### **Success Stories:**

During my visits to Community Daycare Learning Center, I have visited all of the classrooms in the building. While I was visiting during the School Aged Summer Program, some of the children from when I visited doing Preschool Show Me Nutrition recognized me on their way into the building at the beginning of the day and the end of the day on their way out. When I entered the building to visit with the children in the School Aged room I had a family follow me in with a child I had previously had in a preschool aged group. She recognized me right away, ran over and hugged my leg. Her mother immediately smiled at me when I looked up from the sign in book confused, and the teachers laughed and said " That's Ms. Brittney. She visits and does nutrition education with the kids." The mother smiled and waved, and we introduced ourselves to one another and she took the little girl into her classroom and I went into the School aged room to teach. At the end of the day when I went in to pick up my own daughter from the School Aged room later that day, the SAME little girl came around the corner with her father this time and ran to me like she did that morning.

# Randolph County

## Health and Human Sciences

### Profiles and Stories

(Con't)

Her father looked confused for a couple of seconds when the same teachers from earlier that morning started laughing even harder than they had that morning. "That's Ms. Brittney. She does nutrition education with the Littles, Middles and Pre-K classrooms during she school year." The father seemed to recognize the name because he started laughing and said, "Oh! YOU'RE Ms. Brittney that [child's name] talks about when we go grocery shopping or cook sometimes! You don't know how much more fruit we have at home now because of you. Thank you!"

"Oh! YOU'RE Ms. Brittney that [child's name] talks about when we go grocery shopping or cook sometimes! You don't know how much more fruit we have at home now because of you. Thank you!"



### Programming Partners

#### Schools

Westran Elementary  
Community Childcare Learning Center  
Moberly Head Start  
Northeast R1V  
Moberly Area Community College  
Randolph County Public Schools

#### Agencies

Caring Communities  
Little Dixie Regional Library  
Huntsville Little Dixie Library  
Palmers Home Care  
Healthy Families of Randolph Co. Advisory Council  
Randolph County Council of Social Agencies

Randolph County Health Dept.

Randolph County Farmers Market



# Health & Well-being

## Jeremiah Terrell, Field Specialist in Human Development & Family Science

### PROGRAM: TACKLING THE TOUGH SKILLS

Tackling the Tough Skills is a two-hour, five session, curriculum for building “soft skills” for work and life. Topics include: Attitude, Responsibility, Communication, Problem Solving, Preparing for the Workplace. This program had 44 contacts in Randolph County.

Participants were able to:

- Recognize how their attitudes have affected their lives
- Brainstorm ways to change negative self-attitudes
- Recognize their personal strengths, and see how in doing so they felt more responsibility in their lives
- Consider what commitments they were willing to make and to keep
- Make a plan for the future

### PROGRAM: FOCUS ON KIDS

A 2.5 hour class, ordered by state statute, for all divorcing parents with kids still at home. The program reviews the five predictors of positive outcomes for children when their parents’ divorce. Through class discussion and viewing video vignettes, parents are reminded of the importance of keeping their children out of the conflict. This program had 28 contacts in Randolph County.

Participants learn that:

- Avoiding conflict in front of the child improves the child’s outcomes.
- Open & frequent communication between parents **must** be maintained.
- Children need to know: both parents love them & will remain in their lives and that the divorce isn’t the child’s fault.
- Importance of listening to their children.

### PROGRAM: TAKING CARE OF YOU

Taking Care of You is a multi-session program offering practical strategies and experiences to help deal with the stress in life. Managing life’s challenges in a healthy way allows you to take better care of yourself and your overall health. A rigorous program evaluation showed decreased stress levels and improved lifestyle behaviors.

As a result of the program, participants:

- Cultivate positive emotions and resiliency to stress
- Discover opportunities in life’s challenges
- Develop improved responses to stress in terms of their thoughts, emotions and behaviors
- Take better care of one’s health-body, mind and spirit

This program had 128 contacts in Randolph County.

### PROGRAM: MAKING MONEY COUNT

*Making Money Count* is a curriculum designed to help participants improve their overall economic well-being. Making Money Count is a curriculum designed to help participants improve their overall economic well-being. Each unit in Making Money Count includes additional resources to supplement learning, offer real life examples and reinforce the curriculum.

- Making decisions and communicating about money
- Values, goals, & attitudes about money
- Spending plan & budgeting
- Understanding contracts
- Credit as a tool
- Credit as a trust

This program had 80 contacts in Randolph County.

### PROGRAM: BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES

The Building Strong Families: Challenges and Choices program helps families find their strengths, build on those strengths, and learn skills to create stronger families, improve relationships, and increase positive communication. This program had 30 contacts in Randolph County.

Participants reported the following after attending:

- I learned how to take more time with each individual child.
- I realized that each member of my family has a role and responsibility and bring value to the family.
- I learned about how to manage my stress level and how to have a family council.
- I will organize my bills, and I will spend more time with my family.

### Program: Anger Management

Anger Management is a two-hour, three session, curriculum for participants to learn to:

- Understand underlying causes of anger
- Recognize the physical, emotional, & mental effects of anger
- Develop coping mechanisms to reduce anger

This program had 18 contacts in Randolph County.



428

Total of Human Development Program Contacts.